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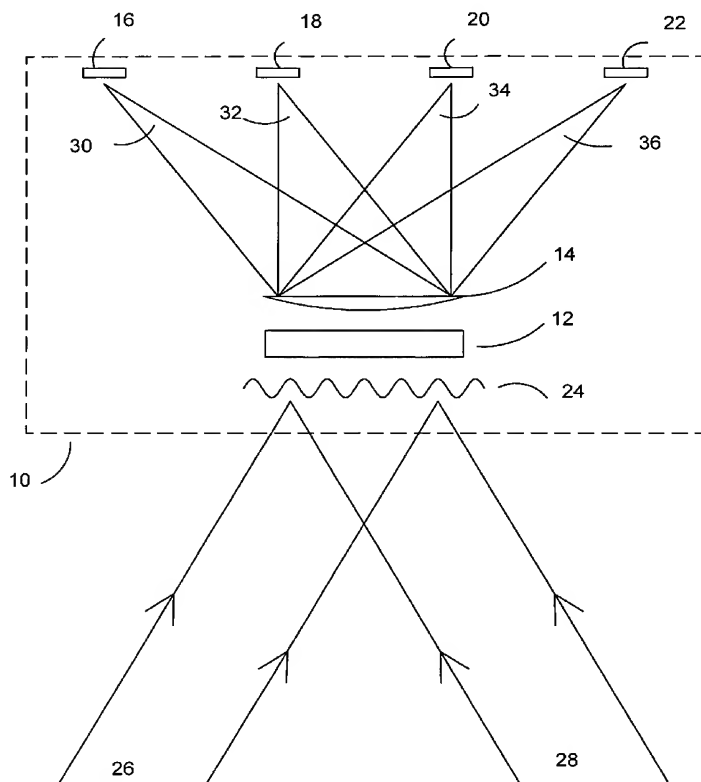
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(54) Title: OPTICAL READHEAD



(57) Abstract: Interferometry apparatus which comprises a measurement light beam (2a, 2b) and a reference light beam (2c, 2d) which interact with each other to cause a spatial fringe pattern (24). An optical device (12) is provided which interacts with the spatial fringe pattern (24), such that light is spatially separated into different directions (30, 32, 34, 36). The intensity modulation in two or more directions of the spatially separated light is phase shifted. The optical device may comprise, for example, a diffractive device, a refractive device or a diffractive optical element.

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